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MCGARRY BAIR PC 171 MONROE AVENUE, N.W. SUITE 600 GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49503			SNIDER, THERESA T	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1744	

DATE MAILED: 03/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

## Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/065,891

Applicant(s)

LENKIEWICZ ET AL.

Examiner

Theresa T. Snider

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/27/2002.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Election/Restrictions***

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-41, 49-50 and 53-59, drawn to a portable extraction cleaner, classified in class 15, subclass 320.
  - II. Claims 42-44 and 51-52 and drawn to a portable extraction cleaner with hose and cord storage, classified in class 15, subclass 323.
  - III. Claims 45-48, drawn to a portable extraction cleaner with particular impeller structure, classified in class 15, subclass 321.
  - IV. Claims 60-62, drawn to a portable extraction cleaner with a tank having a pour spout, classified in class 15, subclass 320.
  - V. Claims 63-64, drawn to a portable extraction cleaner with a liquid separator, classified in class 15, subclass 353.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention II is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring a flexible suction hose and cleaning tool and indentions on one of the tanks for receiving a hose, however Invention I does not require these elements.
3. Inventions I and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different

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functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention III is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring a suction hose and an impeller assembly with a working air conduit between the recovery tank and the impeller flexible suction hose, however Invention I does not require these elements.

4. Inventions I and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention IV is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring a transparent tank flexible suction hose and cleaning tool and indentions on one of the tanks for receiving a hose, however Invention I does not require these elements.

5. Inventions I and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention V is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring an air/liquid separator formed from a riser tube having an internal, however Invention I does not require these elements.

6. Inventions II and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention III is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring a suction hose and an impeller assembly with a working air conduit between the

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recovery tank and the impeller flexible suction hose, however Invention I does not require these elements.

7. Inventions II and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention IV is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring a transparent tank flexible suction hose and cleaning tool and indentions on one of the tanks for receiving a hose, however Invention II does not require these elements.

8. Inventions II and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention V is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring an air/liquid separator formed from a riser tube having an internal, however Invention II does not require these elements.

9. Inventions III and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention IV is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring a transparent tank flexible suction hose and cleaning tool and indentions on one of the tanks for receiving a hose, however Invention III does not require these elements.

10. Inventions III and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different

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functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention V is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring an air/liquid separator formed from a riser tube having an internal, however Invention III does not require these elements.

11. Inventions IV and V are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions the inventions have different effects. Invention V is directed to an extraction cleaner requiring an air/liquid separator formed from a riser tube having an internal, however Invention III does not require these elements.

12. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art because of their recognized divergent subject matter, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

13. During a telephone conversation with John McGarry on 2/2/2005 a provisional election was made with traverse to prosecute the invention of Group I, claims 1-41, 49-50 and 53-59. Affirmation of this election must be made by applicant in replying to this Office action. Claims 42-48, 51-52 and 60-64 are withdrawn from further consideration by the examiner, 37 CFR 1.142(b), as being drawn to a non-elected invention. \*\*\*Please note, claims 53-59 were regrouped into Group I and were therefore examined. \*\*

14. Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the

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application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

*Specification*

15. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

Exemplary of such:

Page 1, 0001, it is unclear as to what is meant by 'of cleaning relatively small areas'.

Page 2, 0002, 'and' should be inserted after 'cleaned'.

Page 5, 0025, 'the clean solution tank' should be replaced with 'a clean solution tank'.

Page 7, 0032, 'A second' should be replaced with 'The second';

'an impeller' should be replaced with 'the impeller'.

Page 8, 0038, 'a recovery tank fluid port' should be replaced with 'the recovery tank fluid port'.

Page 9, 0040, 'a clean solution tank' should be replaced with 'the clean solution tank'.

Page 10, 0045, 'a suction impeller enclosure' should be replaced with 'the suction impeller enclosure'.

Page 11, 0047, 'a flexible suction hose' should be replaced with 'the flexible suction hose'.

Appropriate correction is required.

*Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112*

16. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

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The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

17. Claims 2-41, 49-50, 55-57 and 59 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Exemplary of such:

Claims 2-41, 50, 56-57 and 59, line 1, 'A' should be replaced with 'The'.

Claim 4, line 2, 'clean' should be deleted;

Line 3, it is unclear as to what is meant by 'drop vertically into the housing base'.

Claim 11, line 3, 'opening' should be inserted after 'outlet'(both occurrences).

Claim 12, line 3, 'suction' should be inserted after 'flexible'.

Claim 13, line 1, 'an' should be replaced with 'and';

Line 2, 'suction' should be inserted after 'flexible'.

Claim 15, line 2, 'clean' should be deleted;

Line 3, it is unclear as to what is meant by 'drop vertically into the housing base'.

Claim 17, line 3, 'suction' should be inserted after 'flexible'.

Claim 18, line 1, 'an' should be replaced with 'and';

Line 2, 'suction' should be inserted after 'flexible'.

Claim 49, line 5, 'the' should be replaced with 'an'.

Claim 55, line 7, 'clean' should be deleted.

Claim 59, line 1, it is unclear as to whether the 'plurality of plates' are in addition to that of claim 58 or one in the same.



***Double Patenting***

18. Claim 35 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate of claim 16.

When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

19. Applicant is advised that should claim 16 be found allowable, claim 35 will be objected to under 37 CFR 1.75 as being a substantial duplicate thereof. When two claims in an application are duplicates or else are so close in content that they both cover the same thing, despite a slight difference in wording, it is proper after allowing one claim to object to the other as being a substantial duplicate of the allowed claim. See MPEP § 706.03(k).

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

20. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

21. Claims 1-7, 14-16, 23-24, 35-37 and 53-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Thomas et al..

Thomas et al. discloses a housing assembly including a housing enclosure centrally mounted on a base assembly and a handle formed on the housing enclosure (fig. 2, #9,13,35).

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Thomas et al. discloses a suction motor and impeller mounted within the housing enclosure (fig. 2, #2).

Thomas et al. discloses a solution tank removably mounted to the base at one side of the enclosure (fig. 2, #4).

Thomas et al. discloses a recovery tank removably mounted to the base at another side of the enclosure (fig. 2, #1).

With respect to claims 2-3, Thomas et al. discloses the tank mounted to opposite sides of the enclosure and in a forward and rearward direction (fig. 1, #4,35,1).

With respect to claims 4 and 15, Thomas et al. discloses the tanks being able to be dropped vertically (fig. 2, #4,1).

With respect to claims 5, 16 and 35, Thomas et al. discloses a flexible suction hose with a cleaning tool mounted thereto (fig. 1, #3 and dashed lines).

With respect to claims 6 and 36, Thomas et al. discloses the impeller assembly in communication with the suction hose (col. 2, lines 7-10).

With respect to claims 7 and 37, Thomas et al. discloses the recovery tank fluidly connected between the hose and the impeller (fig. 1, dashed line, 1, fig. 2, #1,2).

With respect to claim 14, Thomas et al. discloses the handle integrally molded with the enclosure (fig. 2, #35).

With respect to claims 23-24 and 53-54, Thomas et al. discloses at least one of the tanks having indented hand grips (fig. 2, unnumbered element on #4, located diagonally left from #33 and unnumbered element on #1, located diagonally right from 8').

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22. Claims 1-9, 14-16, 23-25, 35-39 and 53-55 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Østergaard.

Østergaard discloses a housing assembly including a housing enclosure centrally mounted on a base assembly and a handle formed on the housing enclosure (fig. 2, #1,7,9,8).

Østergaard discloses a suction motor and impeller mounted within the housing enclosure (fig. 2, #20).

Østergaard discloses a solution tank removably mounted to the base at one side of the enclosure (figs. 1-2, #4).

Østergaard discloses a recovery tank removably mounted to the base at another side of the enclosure (figs. 1-2, #5).

With respect to claims 2-3, Østergaard discloses the tank mounted to opposite sides of the enclosure and in a forward and rearward direction (fig. 1, #4,5).

With respect to claims 4 and 15, Østergaard discloses the tanks being able to be dropped vertically (figs. 1 and 3, #1,4,5).

With respect to claims 5, 16 and 35, Østergaard discloses a flexible suction hose with a cleaning tool mounted thereto (fig. 1, #3).

With respect to claims 6 and 36, Østergaard discloses the impeller assembly in communication with the suction hose (col. 4, lines 37-39).

With respect to claims 7 and 37, Østergaard discloses the recovery tank fluidly connected between the hose and the impeller (col. 3, lines 15-30).

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With respect to claims 8 and 38, Østergaard discloses a working air conduit through the housing base between the impeller inlet and the recovery tank (fig. 2, unnumbered element leading down from #11).

With respect to claims 9 and 39, Østergaard discloses a seal between the conduit and the tank (fig. 2, #11).

With respect to claim 14, Østergaard discloses the handle integrally molded with the enclosure (fig. 2, #9).

With respect to claims 23-24 and 53-54, Østergaard discloses at least one of the tanks having indented hand grips (fig. 4, #18).

With respect to claims 25 and 55, Østergaard discloses the clean solution and recovery tanks being transparent or translucent (col. 2, lines 65-67).

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

23. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

24. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.

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4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

25. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

26. Claims 10-11, 19 and 40-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Østergaard as applied to claims 9 and 40, respectively, above, and further in view of Kent.

Østergaard discloses a similar cleaner however fails to disclose exhaust vents.

Kent discloses a portable extraction cleaner having exhaust and inlet vents in its housing (fig. 1, #30). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the exhaust and inlet vents of Kent in Østergaard to prevent the buildup of heat in the enclosure.

27. Claims 12-13 and 17-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Østergaard as applied to claims 5 and 16, respectively, above, and further in view of Blasé et al.('828).

Østergaard discloses a similar cleaner however fails to disclose indentations for hose storage.

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Østergaard discloses the storage of the hose by wrapping it around the enclosure (col. 4, lines 13-15). Blasé et al.('828) discloses the use of indentations on a cleaner enclosure for storing hoses (fig. 1, #225). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the indentations of Blasé et al.('828) in Østergaard to allow for the most secure storage of the hose.

With respect to claims 13 and 18, Østergaard discloses a clip for retaining part of the hose (fig. 2, #24).

28. Claims 21-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Østergaard as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lockhart et al..

Østergaard discloses a similar cleaner however fails to disclose a pair of cord retainers. Østergaard discloses the cleaner having a cord (fig. 2, #22). Østergaard discloses the desire to store the accessories on the cleaner (col. 4, lines 13-23). Lockhart et al. discloses a cleaner with vertical cord wrap retainers (fig. 3, unnumbered element above #177 and below #33). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the cord wrap retainers of Lockhart et al. in Østergaard to allow for the most effective of the cord during storage.

29. Claim 25 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Østergaard.

Thomas et al. discloses a similar cleaner however fails to disclose whether the tanks are transparent or translucent.

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Østergaard discloses a portable extraction cleaner with a clean solution and a recovery tank that are transparent or translucent (col. 2, lines 65-67). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to make the tanks of Thomas et al. transparent or translucent to allow for easily observing the liquid levels of the tanks from the outside, as disclosed in Østergaard.

30. Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thomas et al. as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Crouser et al..

Thomas et al. discloses a similar cleaner however fails to disclose the recovery tank having a pour spout.

Crouser et al. discloses a portable extraction cleaner with a recovery tank having a pour spout (fig. 2, #84). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the pour spout of Crouser et al. in Thomas et al. to allow for ease in emptying the tank.

With respect to claim 31, Crouser et al. discloses a pour spout cover pivotally mounted to the cleaner housing (fig. 7, #86). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the spout cover of Crouser et al. in Thomas et al. to provide for a means to prevent liquid from being expelled from the spout while the cleaner is being moved during use thereof.

With respect to claim 32, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to determine the most appropriate means for mounting the spout cover in Thomas et al. in

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view of Crouser et al. to allow for the most effective prevention of spills during use of the cleaner.

31. Claims 30-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Østergaard as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Crouser et al..

Østergaard discloses a similar cleaner however fails to disclose the recovery tank having a pour spout.

Crouser et al. discloses a portable extraction cleaner with a recovery tank having a pour spout (fig. 2, #84). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the pour spout of Crouser et al. in Østergaard to allow for ease in emptying the tank.

With respect to claim 31, Crouser et al. discloses a pour spout cover pivotally mounted to the cleaner housing (fig. 7, #86). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to provide the spout cover of Crouser et al. in Østergaard to provide for a means to prevent liquid from being expelled from the spout while the cleaner is being moved during use thereof.

With respect to claim 32, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to determine the most appropriate means for mounting the spout cover in Østergaard in view of Crouser et al. to allow for the most effective prevention of spills during use of the cleaner.



*Allowable Subject Matter*

32. Claim 58 is allowed.

33. Claims 56-57 and 59 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

34. Claims 26-29 and 33-34 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

35. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: the prior art discloses a portable extraction cleaner with housing assembly including a housing enclosure centrally mounted on a base assembly and a handle formed on the housing enclosure, a suction motor and impeller mounted within the housing enclosure, a solution tank removably mounted to the base at one side of the enclosure and a recovery tank removably mounted to the base at another side of the enclosure HOWEVER fails to disclose or fairly suggest a decorative face plate that is removably mounted to the housing enclosure and that is adapted to cover at least a substantial visible portion of the visible surface of the housing enclosure OR the recovery tank having an air/liquid separator formed from a riser tube having an internal divider separating the riser tube into fluidly isolated first and second conduits, each of the first and second conduits fluidly connected to the interior of the recovery tank through an aperture at an upper end thereof.

### *Conclusion*

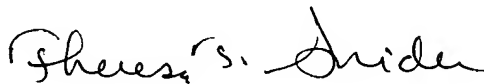
36. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Frank et al. discloses a portable extraction cleaner with a housing assembly including a housing enclosure centrally mounted on a base assembly and a handle formed on the housing enclosure, a suction motor and impeller mounted within the housing enclosure, a solution tank mounted to the base at one side of the enclosure and a recovery tank mounted to the base at another side of the enclosure. Nauta and Blasé et al.('647) disclose portable extraction cleaners with removable tanks. Dwyer, Jr. et al. and Bores et al. disclose cleaners where the tanks are dropped vertically into location. Woo, Parise and Trautloff et al. disclose extraction cleaners with a riser tube.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Theresa T. Snider whose telephone number is (571) 272-1277. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday (5:30am-2:00pm).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Kim can be reached on (571) 272-1142. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Theresa T. Snider".

Theresa T. Snider  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1744

3/21/2005